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MAKEN NO DAYDREAMER

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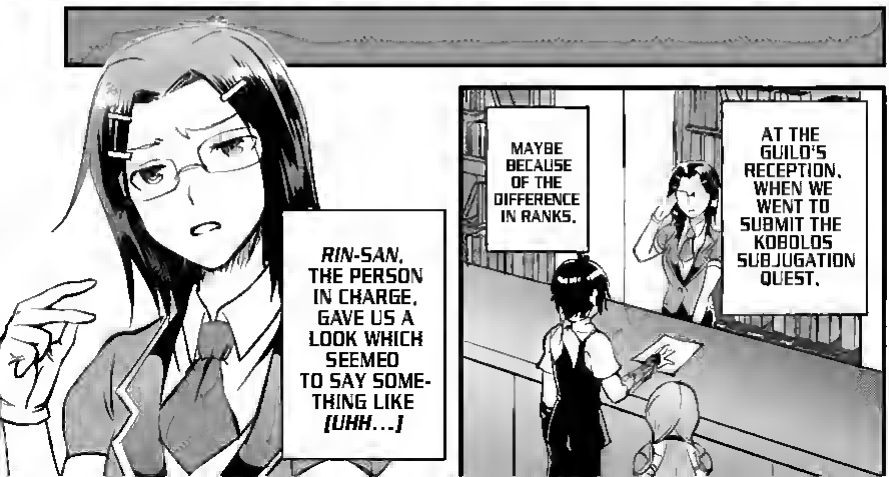
CHAPTER 16

WHERE KOBOLOS HAVE SETTLED DOWN A MOUNTAIN HUT.
WE ARE NOW CLIMBING A MOUNTAIN CALLED RITORASU
魔拳のデイドリーマー
第16話
原作：西和尚
漫画：村松麻由


RIN-SAN, THE PERSON IN CHARGE, GAVE US A LOOK WHICH SEEMED TO SAY SOMETHING LIKE (UHH...)
MAYBE BECAUSE OF THE DIFFERENCE IN RANKS.
AT THE GUILD'S RECEPTION, WHEN WE WENT TO SUBMIT THE KOBOLOS SUBJUGATION QUEST.

WELL, A B-RANK LIKE ME
ACCEPTED AN E-RANK QUEST, IT CAN'T BE HELPED.
A BIT MORE AND WE'LL BE HALFWAY UP THE MOUNTAIN SO.
WE SHOULD ARRIVE SOON I THINK...
A GOBLIN AGAIN ! .....

UM?
THE RITORASU MOUNTAIN IS SAFE ...
WELL ACTUALLY, WE ONLY ENCOUNTER MONSTERS FROM THE "NAGA LABYRINTH"
IT SEEMS THAT THE CURRENT ELK CAN EASILY TAKE CARE OF THEM...
HEY ELK! THIS IS A SLIME RIGHT !?
YES BUT ...
IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN A SLIME!
AN ACTUAL SLIME DOESN'T HAVE A HEAD, HUH...
ITS BODY FLUID SEEMS ACIDIC, BUT...
WHAT HAPPENS IF I TOUCH IT?

AH!!
MY SKIN DOESN'T MELT AND
IT DOESN'T PARTICULARLY FEEL ITCHY NEITHER .....
SLIMES ARE EVERYWHERE SO LET'S GET MOVING ALREADY!

AAHH, THE AIR FEELS GOOD!
WE SHOULD HAVE BROUGHT LUNCH OR SOMETHING WITH US!
SLIMES' CORES ARE CHEAP, BUT YOU CAN CONVERT IT INTO MONEY AT THE GUILD.
AH, TAKE THAT WITH YOU.
WHEN WE'LL HEAD BACK, DO YOU REMEMBER THE WAY TO THE MAIN ROAD?
LIKE, WHAT DIREC-TION...
OH RIGHT, ELK.
EVEN IF THE RISK IS LOW, SINCE WE ARE ON A MOUNTAIN THERE'S A RISK THAT WE'D HAVE AN ACCIDENT.
YOU DON'T REMEMBER ?
WELL OF COURSE, I REME-MBER.
STOP TAKING THIS FOR A PICNIC INSTEAD OF A QUEST.

IT SEEMS I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO SENSE OF DIRECTION.
I SEE.
...AAH
5 MINUTES AFTER ENTERING THE MOUNTAIN AND...
I DID TRY MY BEST, BUT...
THE PATH TO MARLUS TRADING COMPANY, WHERE NOEL-NEESAN IS, IS STILL A BIT UNCERTAIN.
I DO REMEMBER THE WAY TO THE GUILD OR THE NAGA LABY-RINTH SINCE I'VE WENT THERE A LOT OF TIMES, BUT
I RAN THROUGH THE MOUNTAIN IN ONE HOUR.
I STRENG-THENED MY LEGS, THANKS TO WIND MAGIC AND....
WITH A CARRIAGE IT WOULD HAVE TAKEN FOUR TO FIVE HOURS, *BUT*...
THAT'S HOW I AM, SO...
TAKING INTO CONSIDER-ATION THE TIME I'D BE LOST, TAKING THE PATH IN THE MOUNTAIN IS SLOW.

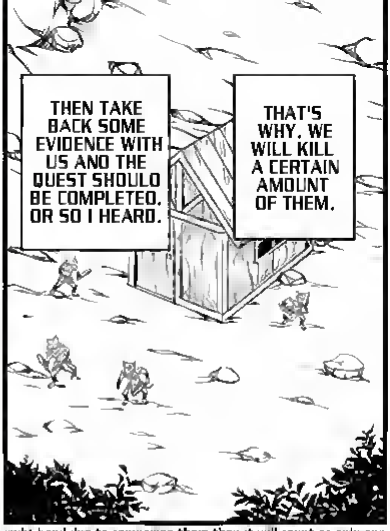
HAA...
HAA
FOR REAL, WHAT IS THIS?
I... IM VEELING SHICK ...
SO THAT IT WOULDN'T BE TOO AROUOUS WITH THE WIND PRESSURE
I USED "STRENGTHENING OTHERS" AND...
LIGHTLY IMPROVED ELK'S BASIC PHYSICAL ABILITY BUT...
I'M A NORMAL HUMAN!
THAT KIND OF FUTURE, THERE'S NO WAY IT EXISTS RIGHT!?
MORE OR LESS USE MAGIC, RIGHT?
BUT EVEN ELK CAN
BESIDES, ELK TOO
MIGHT BE ABLE TO RUN THAT FAST.
WELL, WE WERE RUSHING SO IT CAN'T BE HELPED.

I CAN USE IT.
BUT AS I SAID THAT'S ...
I STILL HAVEN'T SEEN IT, BUT....
ELK CAN ACTUALLY USE MAGIC, A BIT.
REALLY SLIGHTLY IT SEEMS.
MAGIC ISN'T SOMETHING THAT ANYONE CAN USE THROUGH TRAINING
IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANY TALENT TO BEGIN WITH YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO USE IT
IN FACT, I HEARD THAT AROUND HALF OF THE ADVENTURERS DON'T HAVE ANY AFFINITY WITH MAGIC, THE PHYSICAL TYPE
ELK HAS THAT TALENT AND
IT SEEMS SHE HAS AN ESPECIALLY GOOD AFFINITY WITH [WIND] MAGIC
ALTHOUGH SINCE HER ENVIRONMENT DURING HER CHILDHOOD WAS STERN
SHE DIDN'T HAVE THE TIME NOR THE ROOM TO LEARN FROM SOMEONE KNOWLEDGEABLE IN MAGIC
EVEN HER MOTHER WASN'T PARTICULARLY EXCELLING IN MAGIC SO.....
SHE COULD ONLY UNDERGO TRAINING WHERE SHE COULD ONLY TOUCH HER MAGIC

FROM NOW ON, WHEN WE TRAIN TOGETHER
THAT'D BE A HUGE WASTE TO NOT USE MAGIC THOUGH!
I THINK IT'D BE GOOD TO DEVELOP YOUR MAGIC BUT...
AT BEST, SHE CAN CREATE A BREEZE, LIKE A JAPANESE FAN.
RIGHT NOW, ELK MOSTLY CAN'T USE MAGIC.
JUST WHAT ...
DO YOU HAVE ANY PROOF ?
IF YOU PRACTICE, I THINK ELK TOO SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO THAT.
YOU THINK SO?
RUNNING FASTER THAN A HORSE WITHOUT BEING OUT OF BREATH, NOT EVEN ONCE
EVEN IF I WAS TO LEARN FROM YOU,
ISN'T A LEVEL I CAN REACH, I THINK.

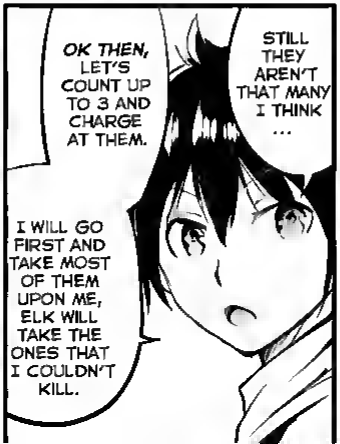
MY INTUITION.
I ACTUALLY HAD ANOTHER ARGUMENT BESIDES MY INTUITION
I WAS QUITE SERIOUS ABOUT IT THOUGH.
...IS THAT SO?
SINCE KOBOLDS ARE MORE COWARDLY AND SMARTER THAN ORCS OR GOBLINS
I HEARD FROM THE RE-CEPTIONIST AT THE GUILD.
IF THEY JUDGE A PLACE TO BE TOO DANGEROUS THEY WILL FLEE SOME-WHERE ELSE.
!
SO THAT HUT IS OUR TARGET .....

LEFT OR RIGHT, BOTH ARE FINE THOUGH.
AS EVIDENCE, THE MATERIALS WE NEED ARE KOBOLD HANDS.
AS A PROTECTION AGAINST HOAX, THE HAND WE TAKE WILL BE STAN-DARDIZED*


THEN TAKE BACK SOME EVIDENCE WITH US AND THE QUEST SHOULD BE COMPLETED. OR SO I HEARD.
THAT'S WHY, WE WILL KILL A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF THEM.

*Note : Which means that if the left hand was cut, but they also find the right hand due to comparing them then it will count as only one

THIS IS THAT KIND OF WORLD SO I CAN ONLY GIVE UP.
THEY LOOK LIKE A HUMAN SO, I'M A BIT RELUCTANT ABOUT CUTTING AND BRINGING BACK THEIR HANDS.....


OK THEN, LET'S COUNT UP TO 3 AND CHARGE AT THEM.
STILL THEY AREN'T THAT MANY I THINK ...
I WILL GO FIRST AND TAKE MOST OF THEM UPON ME, ELK WILL TAKE THE ONES THAT I COULDN'T KILL.

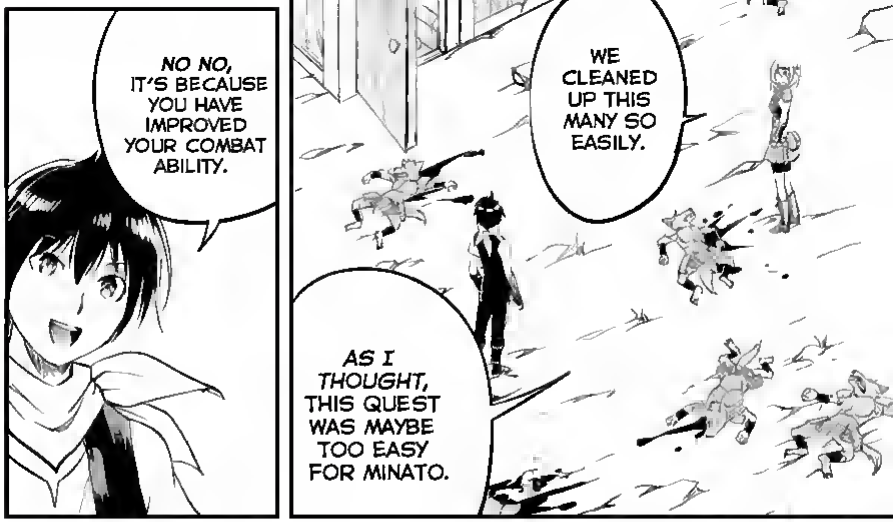
ONE ...
HUH
WHAT ABOUT TWO AND THREE !?
ABRIDGED !
WHAT THE...!?

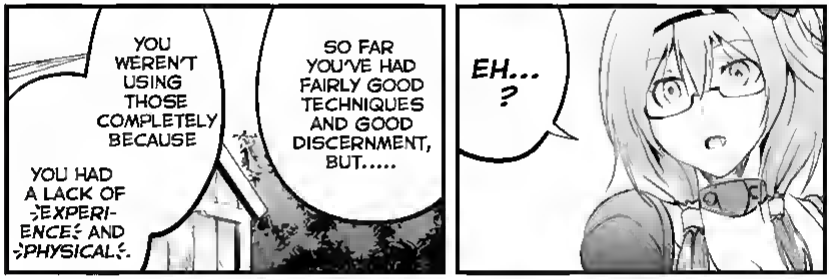
BECAUSE ONE OF THEM SEEMED TO HAVE NOTICED US AND WAS ABOUT TO SHOUT...
THE REASON I OMITTED TWO AND THREE WAS
THOU-GH!

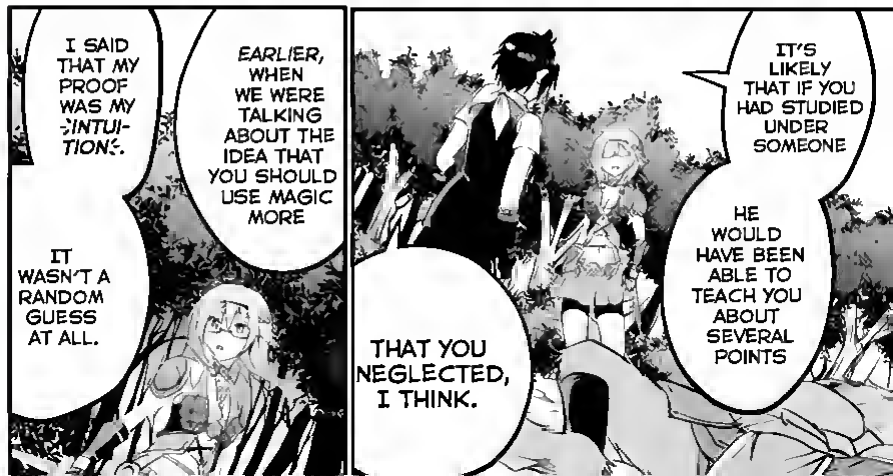
ELK! THE REST ARE COMING.
TO THINK SHE'D STILL BE ON GUARD AFTER LENDING A SUCCESSFUL BLOW...
HOO...

!?
THE ROCK I THREW EARLIER WAS RIGHT BESIDE MY FOOT SO
I TRIED RECYCLING IT.

SHE BECAME ABLE TO MOVE PROPERLY.
ELK ...
SHE CAN'T BE COMPARED TO HER PAST SELF ANYMORE.
TO THINK SHE WOULD CHANGE SO MUCH AFTER ONLY A FEW DAYS OF TRAINING...!!

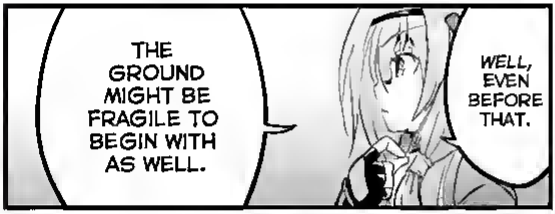

NO NO, IT'S BECAUSE YOU HAVE IMPROVED YOUR COMBAT ABILITY.
WE CLEANED UP THIS MANY SO EASILY.
AS I THOUGHT, THIS QUEST WAS MAYBE TOO EASY FOR MINATO.


YOU WEREN'T USING THOSE COMPLETELY BECAUSE
YOU HAD A LACK OF ≫EXPERIENCE≪ AND ≫PHYSICAL≪.
SO FAR YOU'VE HAD FAIRLY GOOD TECHNIQUES AND GOOD DISCERNMENT, BUT.....
EH...?


I SAID THAT MY PROOF WAS MY ≫INTUITION≪.
EARLIER, WHEN WE WERE TALKING ABOUT THE IDEA THAT YOU SHOULD USE MAGIC MORE
IT WASN'T A RANDOM GUESS AT ALL.
IT'S LIKELY THAT IF YOU HAD STUDIED UNDER SOMEONE
HE WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO TEACH YOU ABOUT SEVERAL POINTS
THAT YOU NEGLECTED, I THINK.

FROM NOW ON, AFTER DOING SOME MUSCLE TRAINING, IF YOU CAN FORGE A BODY CAPABLE OF CONTROLLING THE TECHNIQUES YOU INHERITED FROM YOUR MOTHER
YOU'LL BE ABLE TO GROW STRONGER RAPIDLY .....!
THEREFORE, I WILL JOIN FORCES WITH YOU AND I WILL SPARE NO EFFORT, SO THAT I CAN EVEN TEACH YOU THE MAGIC THAT I DEVELOPED.
I FEEL LIKE I BECAME THE MANAGER OF A PRO ATHLETE .....!
ぽわ
AAH, SOMEHOW I'M VERY EXCITED ABOUT THE FUTURE, TO THINK THERE'S A TALENTED PERSON AT HAND.
わん
I...
I SEE... THANK YOU...
WITH THIS, WE GATHERED EVERYTHING RIGHT...
きゅっ
..... HUH?

THAT EARTHQUAKE MIGHT BE THE CAUSE FOR THAT AS WELL.
THAT EARTH-QUAKE ...?
ON THE BARE ROCK, ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE HUT....
IT'S COLLAPSED IN AN ODD SHAPE.


THE GROUND MIGHT BE FRAGILE TO BEGIN WITH AS WELL.
WELL, EVEN BEFORE THAT.

THIS HUT'S GROUND COULD COLLAPSE AND
WHICH MEANS THAT THIS ENTIRE NEIGHBORHOOD IS DANGEROUS RIGHT?
THERE'S EVEN THE POSSIBILITY OF IT BEING DESTROYED BY A LAND-SLIDE...

THE ONE THAT CAUSED THE NAGA'S AWAKENING ...

SOMETHING SHONE .....?
.....
HEY, MINATO ?
IT MIGHT BE BETTER TO REPORT THIS TO THE GUILD.
INDEED, WE CAN SAY THAT.

……AN EGG ?
…IT'S SO BIG AND
EVEN AS AN EGG IT COULD BE FROM A MONSTER …
OH, SURP-RISINGLY HARD.
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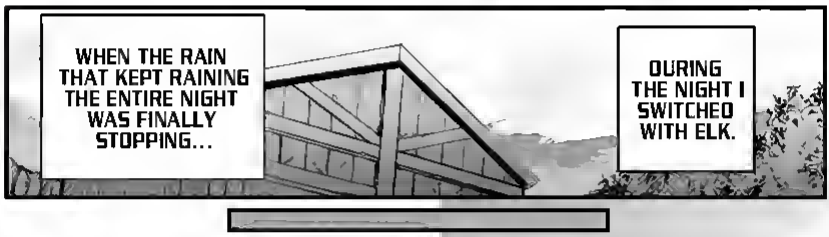
EH?

MINATO !
FOR THE TIME BEING, GET IN THE HUT!!
CLIMBING DOWN THE MOUNTAIN IS IMPOSSIBLE SO
LET'S SPEND THE NIGHT HERE.
TO THINK IT WOULD KEEP RAINING TILL NIGHT TIME...
SINCE WE'RE IN A MOUNTAIN HUT THERE ARE SLEEPING BAGS.
BUT WITH THIS HEAVY RAIN, IF THERE'S A LANDSLIDE .....

ALRIGHT, WELL, I'LL KEEP WATCH FOR A WHILE.

WHILE ONE OF US IS SLEEPING THE OTHER WILL KEEP WATCH, IF WE TAKE TURNS IT SHOULD BE FINE.
HOW ABOUT I SLEEP AND ELK TAKE THE FIRST HALF WATCHING OVER US
THEN I'LL BE ON WATCH OUT DUTY WHILE ELK SLEEP.

OK, I'M COUNT-ING ON YOU.
GOOD NIGHT.


WHEN THE RAIN THAT KEPT RAINING THE ENTIRE NIGHT WAS FINALLY STOPPING...
DURING THE NIGHT I SWITCHED WITH ELK.

WITH THIS SKY, IT LOOKS LIKE WE'LL BE ABLE TO CLIMB DOWN THE MOUNTAIN .....

EEH?
!?

ARGH, YOU'RE SO NOISY.
WHAT'S ALL THAT RUC-KUS !?
DON'T TELL ME THAT IS... FROM THAT EGG YOU PICKED UP.
IT HATCHED !!?

IT'S ONLY A FEW DOZEN OF MINUTES OLD THOUGH .....
IT'S FLYING ...
ぴーっ
THE FIRST PERSON IT SAW AFTER HATCHING IS YOU SO
IT THINKS YOU'RE HIS PARENT ?
AND I'M WONDERING WHY
DID MY SHOULDER BECOME A PERCH...?
WHAT ABOUT FEEDING SOMETHING TO IT !?
ISN'T IT HUNGRY !?
MORE IMPORTANTLY, ITS CRIES ARE TOO NOISY.
UGH... IT'S POSSIBLE.

ピピピ!!!
LOOK, IT'S FOOD YOU KNOW ...?
BE RIGHT BACK, I'M GETTING SOME-THING FOR IT.
AH, THAT'S IT...
ぽよ〜ん
ピ!?
I WONDER IF THERE'S SOMETHING IN THE RUCK SACK
THAT WOULD SEEM EATABLE FOR IT...?
I WENT TO GRAB SOME THINGS THAT WOULD SEEM TASTY FOR A BIRD, BUT IT DOESN'T WORK.
HMM ...
A GRASSHOPPER, AN EARTHWORM, AN ANT AND A CATERPILLAR.
ピ!
フロフロ

IT'S EATING THE SLIME'S CORE ...
IT WAS A CASH ITEM...
ポリ ポリ ポリ...
.....!
ハクハクハクハク
YOU CAN'T EAT THE :MAGIC RESTO-RATION PILLS:-!
HOW MUCH DO YOU THINK IT COST!?

IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY SLIME CORES CONTAIN A SMALL AMOUNT OF MAGIC POWER.
I SEE! THIS BIRD .....
LOOKS LIKE IT LIKES THINGS THAT HOLD MAGIC POWER.
OR MAYBE IT CAN ONLY EAT THAT KIND OF FOOD
WHAT ABOUT THESE MEDICINAL HERBS CONTAINING MAGIC POWER?
ANYWAY ... THIS MONSTER,
WHAT COULD IT BE ?
Ah it's eating.
THERE'S A GENERAL CHECK OF THE MONSTER LIVING IN THIS MOUNTAIN, BUT...
THIS KIND OF BIRD, I HAVE NEVER SEEN IT NOR HEARD ABOUT IT BEFORE.

IT'S A SHELL FROM THE EGG WHERE THIS BIRD WAS, BUT YOU SEE...
EVEN IF I PUT STRENGTH INTO IT
IT DOESN'T CRACK AT ALL.
WELL, IF I SERIOUSLY PUNCH IT, IT BREAKS BUT
I THINK IT'S CLEARLY HARDER THAN IRON, RIGHT?
I WONDER HOW DID IT BREAK THAT SHELL?
THIS LITTLE GUY IS ...
SO ...?
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT THIS BIRD?

LET'S SEE ...
SINCE HE'S ALREADY BORN.
HE'D BE TOO PITIFUL IF HE DIDN'T HAVE A NAME SO...
...WHAT ABOUT "ALPA", DO YOU LIKE IT?
ぴっ!
はぁはぁ
ぴー!
ぴー!
IT LOOKS LIKE HE LOVES IT.
...HAA, YOU COMPLETELY WANT TO RAISE HIM DON'T YOU...
WELL ANYWAY, YOU DID FEED HIM SO HE IS DEFINITELY RECOGNIZING YOU AS HIS PARENT, I GUESS.

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